

NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)
Tucson Field Office

AZ-420-2005-041

Serial/Case File No.: AZA 33133

Proposed Action Title/Type: A filming permit for aerial filming.

Location of Proposed Action: Any public lands within the Ironwood Forest National Monument; Silver Bell East

Description of Proposed Action: The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), has requested a filming permit to conduct low flying aerial filming over the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Their filming purpose is to capture the saguaros cacti in bloom and of the desert landscape. The filming is for the BBC's History Network, Planet Earth series which promotes the most important wilderness areas on earth. This filming project will become a part to the series which describes the world's deserts, but most particularly to include a specific segment on the saguaro. The filming will occur over 2 to 3 days beginning May 26th through May 30, 2005. The BBC crew will also be filming over portions in Saguaro National Park West, and will obtain the proper permits from the National Parks Service.

The filming technique method is with the use of a "Cinebulle", which is a specialized motorized hot air balloon propelled by propane (see attached photos). The craft is designed to carry two persons (pilot and photographer), the balloon is half the size of a conventional hot air balloon, and it has no basket but has a 2 person seat. The directional of the craft is controlled by the pilot. The pilot has over 30 years of experience with flying the Cinebulle, and has flown this craft over sensitive landscapes, wildlife and forest regions around the world. The area needed for staging requires an area of a tennis court. Besides the Cinebulle there will be two to three on the ground vehicles and a four person crew; all vehicular travel will be kept on existing roads and trails, the staging area will occur on an adequate pre-disturbed area chosen by BLM, with all takeoffs and landings occurring at the staging site. For further information on the Cinebulle you can access the website at: www.cher.com/cinebulle.

The BBC will provide adequate insurance to cover any damage to vegetation or needed reclamation. The use of propane has been determined by TFO's hazmat specialist that it is low risk, and in the event of a crash or spill it would not warrant a critical hazmat incident. A BLM staff member will monitor their activities. The filming will avoid flying near Ragged Top Mountain.

Applicant: British Broadcasting Corporation, Bristol England.

PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan: Phoenix Resource Management Plan, December 1988; the Presidential Proclamation designation of the Ironwood Forest National Monument, June 9, 2000 and its interim management policy IM;2002-008. The propose action is also in conformance to federal regulations 43 CFR 2920, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Title 3, sections 302, 303 and 310.

The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

/s/ Susan Bernal
Specialist Signature

5/19/05
Date

PROGRAM CONSULTATION & COORDINATION/CX CHECKLIST
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
TUCSON FIELD OFFICE

PART II: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

NEPA #: AZ-420-2005-041

ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW

Subactivity: 1430 ER
Case/Project No.: AZA 33133

Project Name: The British Broadcasting Corporation-History Network
Location (legal description): Any public lands within the Ironwood National Monument, see attached map.
NLCS Unit: Ironwood Forest National Monument
Quad Name: Silver Bell East
Project Lead: Susan Bernal, Realty Specialist

Draft Review: Unit Manager/Supervisor: Darrell Tersey Date: 5/20/05

Technical Review:

Exception	NAME	EXCEPTION	SIGNATURE	DATE
Applies? Yes No				
() ()	Bill Auby	(1) Have Significant adverse effects on public health or safety?	/s/ Auby	
() ()	Francisco Mendoza	(2) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.	/s/ Mendoza	
() ()	Darrell Tersey	(3) Have highly controversial environmental effects.	/s/ Tersey	
() ()	Bill Auby	(4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	/s/ Auby	
() ()	Dan Moore	(5) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	/s/ Moore	
() ()	Francisco Mendoza	(6) Individually Insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects.	/s/ Mendoza	
() ()	Max Witkind	(7) Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	/s/ Witkind	
() ()	Keith Hughes	(8) Have adverse effects on species listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	/s/ Tersey	
() ()	Keith Hughes	(9) Require compliance with EO 11988, 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.	/s/ Tersey	
() ()	Dan Moore	(10) Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	/s/ Moore	

Final Review:

Unit Manager/Supervisor: /s/ Tersey Date: 5/23/05

Environmental Coordinator: /s/ Cohn Date: 5/23/05

Field Manager: /s/ Alvarez Date: 5/23/05

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4. *E-19*. It has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

The action does not have significant adverse effects on public health and safety nor does the action adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. The action does not have highly controversial environmental effects nor have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk nor does it adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered or threatened species. It does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration with significant environmental effects or related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The proposed action does not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment or which require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:

1. All vehicles will travel and remain on existing roads and trails.
2. No vegetation or wildlife shall be harmed or damaged at anytime.
3. No other use of fuels other than propane or helium can used or be carried on the Cinebulle.
4. The holder will reimburse the Bureau of Land Management for any loss of vegetation and for any reclamation required due to damage occurred by their activities.
5. No aerial flight shall occur within the area delineated as a no fly zone around Ragged Top Mountain. See attached Map.
6. All landing and take offs by the Cinebulle are to occur at the designated staging area.
7. The holder will be responsible to remove all trash and litter caused by their activities.
8. The holder will notify BLM of any crash incidents or damages to vegetation either by the Cinebulle or by vehicles.
9. The holder shall be responsible to comply with FAA regulations and restrictions for aviation flights with a hot air balloon.
10. There shall be no construction of any sort at the staging area.
11. There shall be no trimming or removal of vegetation without the approval by BLM.
12. No filming shall occur on private or State lands without consent of the landowners.

Part III: DECISION. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action does not conflict with major land-use-plans and will not have any major adverse impacts on other resources. Therefore, it does not represent an exception, and is categorically excluded from further environmental review. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures attached.

Authorized Official: _____/s/ Cindy Alvarez_____

Date: 5/23/05